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work was based on embryology and the study of stages of processes, as revealed in the abundant material which was at his disposal and of which he made skilful use, rather than on the experimental method. There is a disposition at present to decry all knowledge not based on experiment, but we must remember that there is not a radical difference between the methods of observation and experiment in disease. The anatomical lesions studied are the results of experiments made by nature in which it is true all the conditions are not known and judgment as to their nature mode of production and relations are based on embryology and stages in the process revealed in the differing single examples which arise. Of this method von Recklinghausen was a master, and most of his work has borne the test of time.

He was a tireless worker, arriving at the laboratory at seven in the morning, and often remaining late into the night. His life was quiet, without distraction, and eminently serviceable. Our ideas of German culture have been derived from the work and lives of such men as this.

W. T. COUNCILMAN.

OLIVER CLINTON WENDELL (1845-1912)

Fellow in Class I, Section 1, 1884.

Oliver Clinton Wendell was born at Dover, N. H., on May 7, 1845. After a life largely devoted to astronomical research, he died in Cambridge, Mass., on November 5, 1912.

Mr. Wendell was fitted for college in the old academy of his native town, and graduated from Bates College in 1868. From this college, also, he received the degree of Master of Arts, in 1871, and of Doctor of Science, in 1907. He was one of the comparatively few men who seemed "predestined" to a specific career, for on his graduation it was announced by the President of the college that one of the small class of five was to be an astronomer. This was Wendell, who apparently had come to this decision in his sophomore year. Two months after leaving college he began work at the Harvard College Observatory, but a year later he was compelled to resign his position on account of illness.

For about ten years he found it necessary to engage in outdoor pursuits. During a part of this time he was an assistant to the eminent engineer, James B. Francis, a man to whom he often referred in

terms of the highest admiration. During this period, also, he was offered a professorship of astronomy at Bates College, a position he was obliged to decline on account of ill health. This was, perhaps, unfortunate, for such a position would have given him, as a teacher, an excellent opportunity for the full expression of his personality.

He returned to the Harvard Observatory in 1879, and was made Assistant Professor of Astronomy in 1898, a position he held during the remainder of his life. His work at the Observatory was chiefly with the 15-inch equatorial, which in early days was often referred to as "The Great Telescope." During the latter part of his life he was almost the sole observer with this telescope, and his relation with it was of the nature of an intimate friendship. Even on cloudy nights, when no work could be done, he appeared to enjoy being near the instrument, which he really loved.

Mr. Wendell observed the eclipses of the satellites of Jupiter from 1891 to 1912. This work required his presence at all hours of the night, a hardship which did not lessen his enthusiasm. He often came to the Observatory on cold winter nights, even when the chance of securing observations was small. He took part in the observation and reduction of the work of the 4-inch meridian photometer, but his principal work was with the photometer having achromatic prisms, attached to the 15-inch telescope. With this instrument he observed variable stars and asteroids. The results are probably the most accurate which had been obtained up to that time. He discovered several new variable stars and two variable asteroids. Although he was able to devote less time to the subject, he had a deep interest in comets, and, in his earlier years at the Observatory, took part in their observation and the computation of their orbits. The results of his astronomical work will be found in Volumes 13, 23, 24, 33, 37, 52, and 69 of the *Annals of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College*.

Mr. Wendell took his vocation with great seriousness. To him, nothing compared in interest with astronomy. It absorbed him, not, however, to the exclusion of a poetic element, which expressed itself at different times in verse. Regarding this phase of his character, however, he was very reticent. Also, he had a sincere faith in the truth of the Christian religion, and an intense belief in the immortality of the soul. He was married, in 1870, to Sarah Butler, of Hanover, Mass., who was a most devoted and loyal helper. Her death, in 1910, was a shock from which he never fully recovered. It left him lonely and inconsolable till his own death two years later. Two sons survive them.

S. I. BAILEY.